California GARDEN

JULY-AUGUST 2001 Volume 92 No. 4 $2.00

HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

June 15-July 4
DEL MAR FAIR Flower & Garden Show "Endless Summer." 24-hour information line 858/793-5555.

June 30-July 1 Sat.-Sun.
SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY Show and Sale. Sat. 12-4 p.m.; Sun.10 a.m.-4 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

June 30-July 1 Sat.-Sun.
THE HUNTINGTON National Cactus and Succulent Show. Over 1000 award-winning plants. 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. both days. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. 626/405-2141. General Admission.

July 7 Sat.
★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY open from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri., also the first and third Saturdays. **Members** of SDFA can check out books. (Membership $10 a year, includes magazine.) Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 105. 619/232-5762.

July 8 Sun.
QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Summer Concert featuring **Peter Sprague**, Latin Jazz Group. 5:00-8:00 p.m. $18 members, $20 non-members. Series tickets for all four concerts are $72. Ticket price includes light supper, dessert and coffee. No-host bar available. Attendees are requested not to bring beverages, food, chairs, blankets or coolers. Tickets available at the Gardens' Gift Shop and the Ecke Building office. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. For info: 760/436-3036 or www.qbgardens.com.

July 9 Mon.
SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Monthly meeting "Private Restorations: An Unconventional Approach to Native Landscaping." 6:30 p.m. at the Satellite Wagering Facility of the Del Mar Fairgrounds on Jimmy Durante Blvd. Free. Info: 760/630-7307.

July 14-15 Sat.-Sun.
NON BO CLUB Show and Sale. Both days 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Information 619/530-2319. Free.

July 21 Sat.
★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY will be open. See July 7 for details.

July 20 Fri.
SAN DIEGO ZOO Orchid Odyssey Exhibit. Rare orchids from New Guinea, Central and South America and China. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Free with admission.

July 22 Sun.
QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Summer Concert featuring **Silverwood**, Celtic Music. See July 8 for details.

July 28 Sat.
QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Workshop on "Natural Pest Control Gardening." 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Ecke Building, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760/436-3036 for registration or information. Members $5.00, non-members $10.00.

July 28-29 Sat.-Sun.
SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY Summer Show. Sat. 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.; Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Info: 619/232-5232. Free.

August 4 Sat.
★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY will be open. See July 7 for details.

August 4-5 Sat.-Sun.
SAN DIEGO DAHLIA SOCIETY Show. Sat. 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free. Information 858/672-2593, or e-mail djsj21643@aol.com, attn: Dahlia.

August 4-5 Sat.-Sun.
SOUTH BAY BROMELIAD ASSOCIATES Annual Show and Plant Sale. Show, Sat. 12:00-4:30 p.m. and Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Sale, both days 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Rainforest Flora's new location at 19121 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503. Free. For information: 818/366-1858 or e-mail Bcbrome@AOL.com.

August 5 Sun.
QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Summer Concert featuring **Flip Oakes**, Traditional Straight Up Jazz. See July 8 for details.

August 13 Mon.
SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Monthly meeting with Steve Beimel speaking about Japanese Gardens. 6:30 p.m. at the Satellite Wagering Facility of the Del Mar Fairgrounds on Jimmy Durante Blvd. Free. Info: 760/630-7307.

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San Diego Floral Association
INCORPORATED MARCH 1910

Published by
San Diego Floral Association
for 91 Years

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Send all editorial material and change of address to:

California Garden
San Diego Floral Association
1650 El Prado #105
San Diego CA 92101-1622

California SINCE 1909
GARDEN
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS NO. ISSN 0008-1116
Telephone 619/232-5762
Arrangers Guild Chm. 619/435-8079

San Diego Floral Association
MAIL-1650 El Prado #105
San Diego CA 92101-1622
see us at Casa del Prado,
Room 105 Balboa Park
Monday through Friday
10:00AM to 3:00PM

VOLUME 92 NUMBER 4

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE HANDS-ON GARDENER

JULY-AUGUST 2001

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COVER Illustration by James Dery, DBF Photographic, of lilac, *Syringa vulgaris*

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Copies of *California Garden* can be ordered by mail for $2.00 per copy plus $1.00 postage. Single copies of the current issue of *California Garden* magazine can be purchased for a donation of $2.00 at the locations listed.

BALBOA PARK VISITORS CENTER, HOUSE OF HOSPITALTY, 1549 El Prado, San Diego CA 92101
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FLOWER SHOWS: Show chairman contact *California Garden*, 619/232-5762 if you want the magazine sold at your show.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN (ISSN 0008-1116) is published Bi-Monthly for donations of $8.00 per year or $15.00 for two years, foreign delivery add $6.00 per year, by San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado #105, San Diego CA 92101-1622. © San Diego Floral Association, 1992. All rights reserved. Periodicals Postage paid at San Diego CA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CALIFORNIA GARDEN, 1650 El Prado #105, San Diego CA 92101-1622.

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★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY will be open. See July 7 for details.

August 18-19 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY Show and Sale. Show, Sat. 12:00-5:00 p.m. and Sun. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Sale both days 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

August 19 Sun.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Summer Concert featuring Valley BlueGrass Boys, Blue Grass. See July 8 for details.

August 25-26 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO TURTLE & TORTOISE SOCIETY Show, Sat. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

BALBOA PARK

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN Open Tues. thru Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Docent tours with reservations. Fee. 619/232-2721.

OFFSHOOT TOURS Ranger guided. Various topics. Saturdays 10:00 a.m. Meet at Visitors Center in Plaza de Panama. 619/235-1121. Free.

INTERPRETIVE WALKS Ranger guided. History oriented topics. Meet at Visitors Center in Plaza de Panama. Tuesdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Free.

ONGOING EVENTS

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Garden Tours & Events. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760/436-3036 or www.qbgardens.com. General Admission.

BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Walks. Poway. Sat. & Sun. 9:00 a.m. 858/679-5469.

WALKABOUT INTERNATIONAL Local Guided Walks. Newsletter. 619/231-SHOE. Free.

THE HUNTINGTON is open Tuesday through Friday noon to 4:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed Monday and most holidays. $8.50 adults, $8 seniors, $6 students (12-18), under 12 and members free. Group rate(10+) $7. First Thursday of each month free to all visitors. 626/405-2100 or www.huntington.org.

CUYAMACA COLLEGE Water Conservation Garden Landscape Seminar on 2nd Saturday of each month. 9:30 a.m. Docent tours Sat. 10:30 a.m. and Sun. 1:30 p.m. 619/660-0614. Free.

Deadline for submission to **HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR** for SEPT/OCT issue is July 15. **SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** is not responsible for changes that are submitted late by the organizations.

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NOW is the time to join! Learn how easy and fun it is to grow orchids. Meet the experts through society activities including lectures, tours, open houses, and classes.

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All this and a great monthly newsletter for only $10.00 (single membership) or $12.50 (dual membership) per year. Don't delay, make your check out today to the SDCOS and mail to:

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Gleanings . . .

gathered by barbara jones

TERMITES . . .
Termites are attracted to dead growth on shrubs and trees. Even mulching too near your home can attract the termites. Experts recommend that a safety margin of at least 18 inches should be left around the building. In other words—no ground cover, no shrubs, no trees, no mulch. It is suggested that inedible alternatives such as rocks can be used. One should make sure the grounds slopes away from the foundation, too. It is also recommended that large trees be grown no closer than 20 feet from the home.

HUNGRY DEER . . .
Many homeowners near canyons and in rural areas complain about the damage done by hungry deer. Deer love tender young rosebushes. Vonnie has found a cure. She cuts Irish Spring soap into fourths and ties them to her prize rosebushes. She says the bushes look a bit strange, but she now has lots of roses. (Several of her bushes have been destroyed.) The green color of the soap will fade, but it is still effective.

JULY PLANTING . . .
July is the best month to plant subtropical and tropical plants. By July the weather will be warm, but not too hot during the day, and the nights will stay warm. Before July, particularly near the coast, the sky can be overcast most of the day and the nights will be fairly cool.

RIPE FRUIT . . .
Ever wonder which fruits will keep on ripening after being picked, and which will not?

Berries, cherries, grapes, citrus, watermelon do not ripen after being picked.

Avocados will not ripen until they are picked.

Apricots, melons, figs, peaches, plums, persimmons will continue to ripen after being picked.

Apples, pears, kiwis, mangos, papayas continue to ripen after being picked and even get sweeter.

Bananas will ripen either picked or on the plant.

Many fruits purchased in markets are still not ripe. (They travel better when green.) A way to get stone fruit and pears to ripen and get sweeter is to enclose them in a paper bag with an apple.

Most fruits do not taste as good after being refrigerated, but refrigeration does not bother ripe melons, apples, pears, or mangoes.

WATER . . .
The San Diego area is classified as a semi-desert — we don't have much water. Our local supply is very low, and we exist with imported water. Every year we get more people and more lawns and we do not get more water. Plus that, the price goes up. You do not have to live on a dirt pile, because it is possible to have beautiful landscaping that can be maintained on little water. To start any plant, it takes water but after being established, many plants survive well with little water. Now is the time to start slowly changing your garden over to one that uses little water. (A front yard full of dead grass is not attractive.)

WATER TRIVIA . . .
U.S., Canada, Australia use the most water per capita. In North America most of the water is used to grow food. Water usage: 70% agriculture, 20% industry, 10% domestic. Only 2.9 % of the earth's water is fresh water and most of it is frozen in polar ice and snow. Experts estimate that everyone needs 13 gallons of clean water per day for cleaning, cooking, drinking. Many countries have much less.

LUCKY BAMBOO . . .
For the past few years there has been a lot of 'Lucky Bamboo' for sale in oriental and flower shops. These charming bamboo-look-alikes are usually sold tied in clumps and standing in pebbles in low decorative containers or in narrow-necked vases. The green bamboo-like stems are from about 8 inches to 3 feet long. Clumps of bamboo-like leaves grow on these stems. The stems must be kept in water and short white roots soon appear. They are disease free, need little sun, and will live over a year with frequent water changes. (The man I purchase mine from obtains his plants from Taiwan.) There are stems available that have been trained into circular forms.

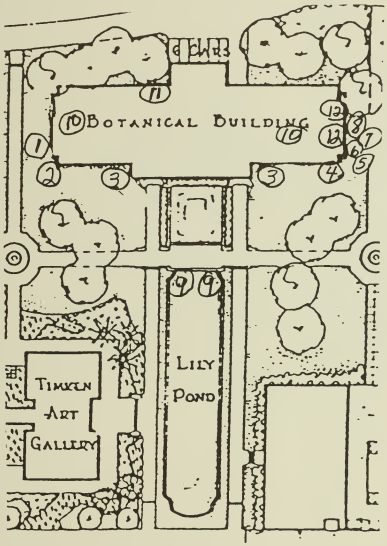
'Lucky Bamboo' is a dracaena not a bamboo. The scientific name according to the *Wall Street Journal* (5/10/01) is *Dracaena sanderana.*

A Chinese legend is that a gift of bamboo for a holiday brings good fortune. Hence the name 'Lucky Bamboo' for this faux bamboo.

SOME PALMS AROUND THE BOTANICAL BUILDING IN BALBOA PARK, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

BY ROSALEEN COX

THERE IS AN INTERESTING group of palms around the Botanical Building. Some are familiar and some unusual, some are fan palms and some are feather palms. You will notice that the three feather palms can be described in much the same way: tall, solitary, trunk gray with ring scars, leaves pinnately compound and reduplicate (folding downward), and leaf size ten to twelve feet. Since they have identifying markers, it is a good place to compare them. The differences in the fan palms stand out so they are more easily recognized by the casual observer.



Starting at the west end near the front are two Florida royal palms, *Roystonea elata* (1). This is a feather or plume palm growing to over fifty feet and native to the swamps of Florida. The Florida royal palm was not identified as a distinct species until 1949 when L.H. Bailey described it. *Roystonea* has about twelve species, all occurring in humid tropics. It was named for General Roy Stone, an American engineer known for his work in Puerto Rico. Two that are commonly seen when traveling in Florida are *R. elata* and *R. regia*, Cuban royal palm. They are not always easily distinguishable. One way this palm is different from the *Howea* and the *Syagrus* also located around the building is the long, glossy crownshaft (a bare green stretch of trunk two to three feet long, just below the crown of leaves).

A group of five *Howea forsteriana* (2) are at the southwest corner of the building. This feather palm is identified by its downturned leaves and the ring scars on the trunk. Another group is also located on the west side of the Casa de Prado Theatre. They are native to Lord Howe Island off the coast of Australia.

Trachycarpus fortunei (3) is a fan palm native to Asia. Called either the Chinese or Japanese windmill palm it grows to twenty-five to forty feet. One of the hardiest palms, it is capable of withstanding a severe freeze, growing out-of-doors along the coast as far north as Vancouver. The slender trunk is covered with coarse fibers and old leaf bases. The fan-shaped leaves are nearly round, divided more than half-way to base. The petiole has teeth on margins and the trunk tapers slightly at the base. There are groups of six planted on the outer side of each entrance. Another *Trachycarpus*, *T. martianus* can be seen at Quail Botanical Gardens.

The two low growing fan palms near the eastern end of the building are *Bismarckia nobilis* (4). These will mature to a height of over thirty feet. This native of Madagascar has huge leaves, sometimes to ten feet in diameter. The foliage is blue-green and makes a striking contrast to many other palms, but it is the hugeness of the leaves and the resulting massive appearance that may identify it.

On the left: *Trachycarpus fortunei*, right are *Bismarckia nobilis*

Two of our more popular palms in San Diego are here on the southeast end of the building. Both are old plantings and you must look high in the air to see the

Laccospadix australasica in a bed of bromeliads

Licuala ramsayi across path from new (June 1st) succulent garden

tops of the palms. These are *Washingtonia robusta* (5), a fan palm and *Syagrus romanzoffianum* (6) a feather palm. *Washingtonia robusta* is from Mexico and may grow to one hundred feet, taller than the *W. filifera* (which is the other washingtonia you are likely to see along San Diego streets.) It may not be suitable for a yard, but used in parks or as a street tree it is very effective. *Syagrus* is a Brazilian native growing to fifty feet. Another palm used as a street tree there is a row of them along Village Place west of the Natural History Museum.

Among these trees at the southeast corner of the building are two *Brahea edulis*, (7) from Guadalupe Island off the west coast of Mexico, where it is an endangered species. This fan palm reaches a height of thirty-five feet, has a brown trunk ringed with scars but no leaf bases. Often you can see clusters of the plump black fruit that gives it its name, edulis. Across the driveway is a small *Brahea armata* cv. 'Clara'. (8) *Brahea armata* is known as the blue hesper palm, because of the blue-green leaves. As the name implies the petiole is armed with downward pointing teeth. The cultivar 'Clara' has a more slender trunk and most noticeably has droopier leaflets than the species.

There are two clumps of *Acoelorrhaphe wrightii* (ah see lo ra fe) (9) at either end of the lily pond in front of the Botanical Building. This palm is a multistemmed fan palm (or one that grows in clusters.). The slender trunks grow close together at the base. It is another palm native to Florida, West Indies, and Central America. Only one species in this genus, the maximum height is about twenty-five feet. The slender trunk is covered with fiber and leaf bases.

Sometimes fan palms are described as being palmate or costapalmate. Palmate means fan palms with no extension of leaf stem (petiole) into leaf blade. The costapalmate have the extension. Looking at these palms you can see the difference. *Bismarckia nobilis* and *Brahea edulis* are costapalmate while the *Trachycarpus* and *Acoelorrhaphe* are palmate (without the extension).

Inside the Botanical Building you will find a number of unusual or seldom seen palms. One is *Laccospadix australasica* (10), a slender feather palm from the mountain rain forest of Australia where it grows as part of the understorey. There are only one or possibly two species. Usually it grows no taller than twelve feet and has multiple trunks, but may be solitary. The inflorescence is an unbranched spike about three feet long, at first erect and then drooping. Young plants may be compared with *Howea*. There are two plantings, one near the west end in the raised bed of bromeliads is solitary, and the other one east of the entrance in the center of the raised bed running east and west containing mostly ferns is a cluster of four.

Another palm, *Licuala ramsayi* (11), is a fan palm with almost circular leaves and wedge shaped leaflets with blunt tips. The segments may be undivided when young. The leaflets will remind you of those of *Rhapis*. Fortunately it is planted next to *R. humilis* so it is easy to see the likeness. Our specimen is about six feet high and is located in the bed along the north wall almost directly across from the westernmost entrance. This is also from Australia, native to Queensland.

One other palm, *Chambeyronia macrocarpa* (12), a feather palm growing to perhaps sixty feet has a ringed trunk and a green crownshaft. It is another palm from high altitudes with a lot of rainfall. The distinctive feature of this palm is the emerging leaves that are reddish before becoming green. It is a palm to check each time you visit the Botanical Building to catch it with new growth. It is native to New Caledonia. There are two groups of specimens on the east wall. □

Rosaleen Cox, a retired cost engineer, is the SDFA Librarian and a docent at Quail Gardens.

CARNIVOROUS PLANT BOG GARDEN

BY JOHN MELLEIN

SEE FOUR GENERA OF carnivorous plants at the new bog garden at the Balboa Park Botanical Building in San Diego. Many of these plants are just coming out of winter dormancy and are blooming in May and June. The display will include *Sarracenia, Drosera, Dionaea,* and *Pinguicula*.

The typical habitat of **American pitcher plants, *Sarracenia***, is the southeastern coastal plain of the United States. This genus attracts insects by the color of the pitcher and scent of the nectar. The nectar contains a powerful drug, coniine, that confuses or paralyzes the insect. The unsuspecting prey then fall down a one-way trap lined by slippery downward-pointing hairs into a bath of digestive acids and enzymes. This nutrient-rich soup is then absorbed by the plant.

Sundews, *Drosera*, are found all over the world. To attract insects, the surface of the leaf has many tentacles tipped with sparkling color and a sweet-smelling nectar. This nectar is also a powerful glue. The victim's struggle sets off an electrical signal in the leaf, and nearby tentacles slowly begin to move toward the insect. The tentacles secrete digestive juices, and, after the insect is partially liquefied, they then absorb the resulting soup. The leaf and tentacles then move back into their original positions and await the next meal.

Venus fly traps, *Dionaea*, are native only to the coastal plains of southeastern North Carolina and northeastern South Carolina. Insects are attracted by the color and sweet nectar. The interior surface of the trap has tiny trigger hairs. If these hairs are touched twice within a few seconds, an electrical current is released to cause the outer cells to double in size in less than a second. This snaps shut the jaws of the trap to catch the insect. Digestive juices are then secreted, and the nutrient soup absorbed. The trigger hairs have to be touched twice to insure that a raindrop or twig doesn't trigger the trap. Within four to ten days, the trap reopens and is ready for business again.

Butterworts, *Pinguicula*, grow throughout the Northern Hemisphere, and a few grow in South America. They are small plants that usually trap gnats and other tiny insects. The genus name means, "little greasy one." They have tiny gland-tipped hairs on their surface, and the glands produce a sticky glue. When an insect is trapped by the glue, sessile glands beneath the insect fill with digestive juices and dissolve parts of the insect. These glands then absorb the resulting nutrient soup.

These four genera grow in swamps, bogs, and other wet areas where slowly-moving water carries away most of the nutrients necessary for plant growth. Carnivorous plants have adapted to this kind of environment by luring, trapping, and digesting insects and other small animals for a source of needed nutrients.

Carnivorous Plant Bog Garden; in back *Pritchardia hillebrandii,* lou-lou or lelo palm

The carnivorous plant bog garden was created by the staff of the Botanical Building in cooperation with the San Diego Carnivorous Plants Society. For more information on this society, check their web site at www.sdcps.com. An excellent book on cultivating carnivorous plants is *The Savage Garden* by Peter D'Amato. □

John Mellein is the Balboa Park Nursery Supervisor and in charge of the Botanical Building. He has a degree in Agriculture and Natural Resources Management from San Luis Obispo State University and has taken classes in tree surgery, pest control, and others. "Every plant is of interest."

BIRTH OF A PLANTSMAN

BY STEVE BRIGHAM

THE CURSE OF THE SPECIALIST is often to get so involved in esoterica that they lose perspective of the whole. That is something I have tried to avoid in my career, for as a nurseryman my job is to reach out to gardeners of all types—especially the beginners. Although I have spent some twenty-five furious years as a plantsman (with, I hope, another thirty-five to go), I often think back to those innocent days when I too was a beginner. My story may not be all that special, but I hope it will interest you. If you're already way into gardening, perhaps you can identify with my story by remembering that time in your life when plants suddenly became a passion, not just an interest. If you are just now getting really interested in plants, perhaps you are curious as to how the mania begins. No matter what your experience level, all of us as gardeners have a great opportunity to get others interested in plants and gardening. Perhaps what worked for me will work for them, too.

Conventional wisdom teaches us that a passion for something is 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration. While that may be true in the long term, every passionate plant collector can remember moments of 100% inspiration that changed their lives. In my case, I had long been interested in vegetable growing since early childhood, and also interested in landscape gardening as a young adult. I had studied the *Sunset Western Garden Book*, and knew many of the most common ornamental plants. But as a college student I found myself working as a gardener at the University of California, Santa Cruz Arboretum—and that was when things began to change. Tending a large collection of proteas there made me realize that there was more to the world of plants than what was commonly available in nurseries. (My professor, the estimable Dr. Ray Collett, had by then already established an enormous collection of many kinds of unusual flowering plants, and I was just getting to know them.) And then it happened.

One day, I went into one of the greenhouses to do some weeding—and I could not believe what I saw! An enormous, spectacular bright yellow flower had been produced by a small tree I had never noticed before. The next day, there were more flowers, and more after that—and I was captivated! What I was seeing was *Tabebuia chrysotricha*, the golden trumpet tree—a plant that would change my life. I decided to do some homework, and soon found out that although this tree could in fact grow outdoors in central California, it was practically non-existent in the local nursery trade. Even experienced nurserymen were stumped. (But also rather embarrassed when I pointed out that it was in the *Sunset Western Garden Book*!) Somewhere in California, I thought, someone must be growing this plant.

And so I went to my professor, Ray, and told him how much I loved the trumpet tree. Ray could tell I had a new-found interest in subtropical flowers, and told me of the large collection of trumpet trees at the Los Angeles Arboretum in Arcadia. He also told me about a book, which I promptly found at the library. More so even than the trumpet tree, this one book really did change me life! The book was *Color for the Landscape*, edited by Dr. Mildred Mathias of UCLA. It has since been revised and reprinted as *Flowering Plants in the Landscape*, Mildred E. Mathias, editor, University of California Press, 1982—but unfortunately may be out of print. *Color for the Landscape* was a compilation of five color booklets that had been produced in the 1960s by the finest horticulturists in the Los Angeles area. It featured page after page of beautiful color photos of the finest subtropical flowering trees, shrubs, vines, perennials, and natives for California gardens. I took this book to several Bay Area nurseries, but was often met with blank stares—practically none of the plants in the book were available for sale. This only made me more determined to find them—even if it meant a trip to (gulp!) Lost Angeles!

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NATIVES AND THE LONG HOT SUMMER©

BY PAT PAWLOWSKI

SUMMERTIME AND THE LIVING is easy (or it should be). Many times, however, we make things harder than they have to be; for example, we may decide to "brighten up" the front yard by grabbing any cheap, colorful, eyeball-entrancing plant that we happen to run across while out shopping. Sometimes we fail to consider how much that pretty plant will cost us in water and time. Time is money, and these days, water is not exactly cheap either.

All we know is that the plant has pretty flowers. So we plunk down our cash, take the plant home, spend time and effort to install the plant in the yard, neglect to water it often enough, and eventually we watch it die.

And back we go to square one.

To get to square two (where the living is easier), we should consider including drought-tolerant native plants in the garden. For one thing, landscaping with unthirsty natives will save you money. You won't have to shell out more cash to replace your plantings each year or, in extreme cases, each month. And you won't have to fertilize the heck out of the natives, like you have to do with some exotics.

Landscaping with native perennials, shrubs, and trees also will save you time. Instead of crawling around on your hands and knees in puddles of perspiration as you replace those expired exotics, you'll be relaxing on the patio with friends, in a nice comfy chaise lounge (you may want to provide separate seating for the others), watching all kinds of interesting animal life.

Goldenrod (*Solidago*)

Lobelia (*Lobelia cardinalis*)

Which brings us to several other reasons for introducing natives into your surroundings: entertainment and environmental sensitivity.

Just recently at our house, one butterfly/bird enthusiast (me) and three others, somewhat new to wildlife appreciation, sat on my patio. It just happened to be the day that all the painted lady butterflies flew by. Every few seconds, a dozen would wend their way past our view. California quail showed up, somewhat bashfully, for a quick drink from the bird bath. A swallowtail butterfly landed on an erigeron blossom to siphon up nectar. A hummingbird came by to sip from one of the sages. And there we sat, imbibing our own version of nectar, taking it all in.

Then, a newcomer showed up, a bird with brilliant aqua-colored head feathers. "What's that?" we wanted to know, as the binoculars got passed back and forth. I dashed inside to get the bird book and flipped through the pages. Meanwhile, the newcomer sashayed back and forth among the branches of a shrub, giving me a chance to locate its picture in the book. It was a lazuli bunting (*Passerina amoena*); I passed the book around for the others to see and in that moment I felt very close to them. It was the sharing of that experience, in addition to the beautiful bird, that made it especially wonderful.

. . . if you know the bloom times of native plants, you can have a garden that never looks dead

As urban sprawl continues sprawling, many native plants that sustain our wildlife are lost and thus, eventually, the wildlife itself, leaving us with a sterile, unfriendly, boring environment. San Diego County has such a huge, fascinating variety of plant and animal life; it would be a shame to lose all that by neglecting to include natives in the garden.

However, landscaping any area that is visible to the sometimes critical eyes of others can be tricky. Some of our native plant species are summer-deciduous, which means that they lose many of their leaves in our dry months, in order to save energy until the winter rains refresh and stimulate growth. Naturally we want our front yards to be visually pleasing yet easy to maintain. Unfortunately, the landscaping expectations of many people are raised unnaturally high by our public spaces, which too often have been overplanted, overcolored, and overcontrolled. For example, visit a shopping center, resort or business park. Chances are your eyes will be exposed to blazing expanses of searingly bright plantings (many exotic annuals), all looking perfect, in neat

geometric patterns. There will be more shades of red, blue, white, and/or yellow than green. This is not normal.

Persons unschooled in gardening might assume that this perfect, weedless, seedless, exhibition can be achieved in their very own gardens. In some cases, it can—all they need is unlimited time and money. But for those who are lacking in the items mentioned above, help is on the way:

BRILLIANT BLOOMERS

Here are some natives whose flowers are gorgeous in the summer:

California fuchsia (*Epilobium spp.*, formerly known as *Zauschneria*) - A 2-3′ perennial with sage-shaped vivid red-orange flowers that make hummingbirds deliriously happy. Apparently this native made John Muir happy also, since in a letter to a friend he speaks of breakfasting on "crystal water, and air, and honey sucked from the scarlet flowers of *Zauschneria*, about one tenth as much as would suffice for a humming bird . . . wholly ungross and very nearly spiritual." — from *Life and Letters of John Muir*, Vol. ii: 92, by W.F. Badè.

Mountain pennyroyal (*Monardella odoratissima*) - The mountain pennyroyal has profuse reddish purple blooms, which greatly appeal to butterflies and those who watch them. Other native *Monardellas* also attract butterflies, and the leaves generally smell great, too.

Yarrow (*Achillea spp.*) - Perennials with white flowers that, on a hot summer day, will give you the feeling of coolness even though you aren't.

California goldenrod (*Solidago californica*) - A plant with mellow yellow flowers, which will please butterflies and you too.

Erigeron (*Erigeron glaucus*)

Sage (*Salvia*) blossom

Lobelia (*Lobelia spp.*) - *L. cardinalis* has brilliant red blooms which you can use for indoor flower arrangements, unless the hummingbirds prevent you from doing so. This one likes water. *L. laxiflora* tolerates heat.

Cinquefoil (*Potentilla griselius)* - With regular garden water, this 1-foot perennial will display its yellow blooms almost all year.

Wayne Roderick erigeron - (*Erigeron glaucus* 'Wayne Roderick') - If you perform the ominous-sounding procedure called "deadheading" (decapitating the spent flowers every few months), it will bloom almost year-round. The 1-inch, daisy-like blooms are a luminous light purple.

Sages (*Salvia spp.*) - Take this sage advice: To round out your native garden, include a salvia or two—some of which may gladly bloom if given a bit of extra water.

While some natives will get annoyed with extraneous watering, many of those mentioned will accept some summer water; but it's always best to check cultural requirements before planting. In addition, there are many other summer-attractive natives to consider.

On an extra-hot day, visit a local bookstore or the library (both of which probably will be air-conditioned) to do your floral research.

EVERLOVING EVERGREENS

It may be too much to expect that people originally from more rainy climes would forgo having lots of lush greenness around. For those, there are native evergreens such as:

Toyon or California holly (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) - Handsome holly-like large shrub or small tree with red berries in fall and winter. A true celebrity in the garden. Spiny redberry (*Rhamnus crocea*) - Leaves are small and dark green. This shrub has small red glistening jewel-like berries but be quick to notice them since the birds will be busy harvesting them.

Laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*) - Can become a very large shrub or a tree with some pruning. Has leathery dark green leaves and sometimes a wonderful maple syrup-like aroma. Best inland; but it doesn't like to get frosty.

Lemonadeberry (*Rhus integrifolia*) - If the supermarket runs out of lemons you can use the small berries to make a refreshing drink, if the birds don't get there first. This shrub prefers a moderate climate.

Sugarbush (*Rhus ovata*) - Best inland, this 8′+ evergreen is very drought tolerant. The leaves bear a

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GARDEN SCULPTURE

BY ROBERT D. HORWITZ

IT SEEMS TO ME that a garden that obtains its interest and beauty from plants alone needs something else to offset and contrast to the growing plants. This is where garden sculpture comes in. It can be a running fountain, a classical bench, an arbor, a statue, or just an ordinary pile of rocks.

If you take walks along Shelter Island or along the San Diego River channel or at Seaport Village you might find rocks arranged in eye-catching piles that contrast with the surrounding growths and the water. I have been told that these creations are mainly put up by an artist named Ted Suggs who has a studio in Spanish Village in Balboa Park.

Shelter Island sculpture of child blowing bubbles

Also on Shelter Island near the toddlers' playground is a statue of a child blowing bubbles that fits in so well with the surrounding plants and activities. Alas, some thoughtless people have removed the title of the work and the name of the sculptor.

In my own yard we have a statue that was made by Alber De Matteis that he designed for us to reflect the sunny nature of the garden and surroundings. All the neighborhood children go to this statue immediately after entering the garden.

Sometimes fanciness is unnecessary in the garden and artfully arranged rocks or stones will set off the colors and textures of the plants. Once at the Del Mar Fair I saw a neatly polished stele made of red granite

Shelter Island sculpture of child blowing bubbles

that had a waterfall clinging to its face as the water cascaded down. One could have this sculpture at one end of the patio and an hour glass at the other.

Fences and gates can make excellent artful subjects that surround the garden and provide vertical growing spaces for plants and on which containers can be mounted. Gnarled logs can provide interesting niches for planted pots. And the list goes on. All it takes is a little imagination. □

Horwitz garden sculpture

Robert Horwitz is a retired aerospace engineer who gardens in the Point Loma section of San Diego. Photographs by the author.

GARDENER AT LARGE

BY BETTY NEWTON

ENCELIA CALIFORNICA

ENCELIA CALIFORNICA IS A TERRIFIC little bush. It blooms from January to July. How is it that we are not using it in our gardens? I think I know why. It is invisible—in that using this little shrublet has not entered our minds. It is not in the nurseries (most) and we drive by *Encelia californica* on the roadsides and hills, enjoying the happy color, but don't think of it in terms of home.

We are blind to a yummy possibility. Just yesterday I saw this daisy bush on the top edge of a series of raised beds with its side branches draping gracefully down a railroad tie. The Potrero homeowner didn't know where it came from. I think he appreciates it.

Encelia's two- to three-inch, medium yellow daisy flowers are held eleven or so inches above its dark green leaves where they wave lightly in the breeze. The flowers are all over the two-foot plant! The leaves are about 2½ inches, simple and elliptic, skinny with a smooth edge and some increase in width in the middle. The owner of Las Pilitas Native Nursery north of Escondido suggested it as a large scale ground cover in his catalog-book.

The second name of *E. californica* reminds us that it is not the taller, gray-leaved encelia that Caltrans plants along the roadsides. The gray leaves of that plant say clearly that it is from the desert. It evolved especially for the desert—gray reflects the sun and all that.

Our coastal encelia, the yellow daisy bush, grows only in coastal Southern California and northwest Baja California. It grows at least 20 miles inland—to Lakeside (now we can add communities back to Tecate). It is all ours. The informality of this shrublet fits in superbly with the drought-resistant garden look. It would look great with the purple velvet spires of Mexican bush sage and magenta *Cephalophyllum*. It will accept some summer water unlike many natives. It should be available at more than our two native plant nurseries, Tree of Life Nursery on the Ortega Highway east of San Juan Capistrano and the just mentioned Las Pilitas.

The gray brittlebrush, or incienso, *Encelia farinosa*, has leaves that are heavier textured and wider—about 2½ inches long. I would only want it in the garden if I were placing it near a big boulder in a desert-feeling section. There is something noisy about it to my eye.

We all remember that gardening is a highly subjective business and some may feel a deep affection for the desert encelia even when it is on highway slopes here. It jars me.

I do realize that I do not know everything nor do I expect to before I leave earth, but we have a wonderful time stretching and learning and picking up information here and there about intriguing plants. And eventually, maybe, we piece together something worthwhile. I share here what I do know. I found four respected references disagreed about this plant. I see no purple center. At a distance it is black, certainly dark.

Encelia californica

In the Eighties, I noticed the bright round bushes of encelia in a canyon-ravine of Point Loma College. Later I heard an owner of Tree of Life Nursery (a supplier of natives to Caltrans) tell a group there was a time when they had no stock of the plant though it was in demand. Peculiarly it had not set seed in sometime. After that came a good year and they had lots.

Our son-in-law brought a generous supply from a trip to the country. It appears they all grew. Now it is your turn to try encelia. It would look good near a copper-leaved *Acalypha* at the side of a coral-flowered small *Eucalyptus torquata*. □

Betty Newton teaches for Grossmont Adult Education.
Illustration by Cherie Ann Gossett.

LILACS FROM MY AUNT MARY'S GARDEN

BY JERRY RAY

EACH APRIL OUR NATION'S focus is taken in one direction while I, in a parallel universe, bask in the memory of lilacs. Lilacs from my Aunt Mary's garden.

Aunt Mary, at ninety-five, was considering relocating to an assisted-living situation. We knew she could use help readying her home of fifty years for rent.

Her church had just built a new sanctuary, and she was excitedly anticipating Easter week. What an opportunity! Let's go!

Spring would certainly be a change from the oppressive heat and surprise early snowfalls we had encountered in the high desert of Ontario, Oregon during summer/fall visits.

We flew into Boise, Idaho where we picked up a rental car. Upon arriving in Ontario there were the usual hugs and kisses followed by a tour of the yard. After all, we'd never seen Aunt Mary's yard in spring.

Turning into the backyard I caught my breath and froze. I couldn't believe my eyes — and good fortune! Against the garage was an enormous lilac in full bloom! It bushed out heavily and stretched in competition with the peak of the garage. What splendor!

Aunt Mary seemed perplexed. "It's just my lilac," she stated flatly.

"But, Aunt Mary, we can't grow them in San Diego! I haven't been this close to such fragrance since we lived in Vallejo in the early 1960s," I said, half pleading for understanding and half trying to excuse my perceived strange reaction.

"Well, when you've had your fill come in the house. Lunch is ready," she said as she left me standing there. It was a difficult choice!

At week's end we were packing and Aunt Mary handed me a sturdy shopping bag, reminding me to help myself to the lilacs. Hugs, kisses, tears and we were off to the Boise airport.

Departure was an hour away and Jim was restless. He said he was going to look for a TV. Good. I was working on a plumeria article for *California Garden* and needed quiet.

Shortly Jim returned telling me the Federal Building had been blown up. I told him the capitol was just north of us and we would have seen commotion if there was a problem.

Jim left to go learn details. When our flight was called he still had not heard any new information. As we passed through security a young woman looked at my shopping bag and exclaimed, "LILACS!"

"Yes, from my Aunt Mary's garden," I excitedly proclaimed.

"Well, we don't want anything to happen to these beauties. I'll walk them around the machine so they don't take a chance of being crushed on the conveyor belt." I gratefully thanked her and walked through the gate.

Syringa vulgaris (lilac)

Boarding the plane I heard the woman behind me chanting, "I hope she sits by me, I hope she sits by me, I hope she sits by me." As I turned into my row I heard

a very disappointed moan as the lady walked on past.

Around me passengers were straining and buzzing, "What's that smell? Who has whatever smells that good?" Finally, I drew the bag from the floor. As I opened it for viewing I proudly announced, "Lilacs! From my Aunt Mary's garden."

A plane change in Salt Lake City brought another caring security person who walked my precious cargo around the conveyor belt. As I inched toward my row, a tall woman looked down over my shoulder and told me, "Those are lilacs. We can't grow them in San Diego." I mused, if I could grow them in San Diego would I be struggling with them as carry on?

We deplaned at Lindbergh. While Jim went to claim luggage I stood against a far wall, guarding the carry-on bags and my floral treasure. Shortly, a burly man appeared to be headed my way. His thick, dark hair, heavy beard shadow, and utilitarian suit of rough fabric brought to mind a KGB agent. I stood my ground.

The man looked down into the bag on the floor and asked, "What are called these flowers?"

Relieved he wasn't a foreign agent, I blurted, "Oh! These are lilacs! They're from my Aunt Mary's garden."

Not taking his gaze from the blossoms he softly said, "Lilacs. I have not seen these since I left my country."

We stood quietly. How long? A lifetime. Another life. A gentler time. Neither of us spoke.

Abruptly he blinked, sniffed, and quickly strode away, not looking back. To this day I wonder what heart tugs he experienced.

Having gathered the luggage we set off for home. As we drove along Broadway I called Jim's attention to the yellow police tape around the Federal Building.

Federal Building?! Was it our Federal Building that had been blown up?! No, everything was intact. We'd have to catch the news later.

I shared my bounty with friends. My grand bouquet would be just as grand if it was made smaller by sharing. And, oh, were those stems received with joy.

April 19th appears on the calendar again. The anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing. A heartache for Americans. But, as I said, my memories draw up images of my young daughters playing in their fort beneath two lilac trees, sprigs of lilacs pinned to my coat in girlhood, a bountiful bouquet placed in my mother's cut glass vase on the dining room table. But, foremost, my memories are of that crazy day I carried lilacs to San Diego from my Aunt Mary's garden. □

Jerry Ray is a gardener who can get anything to grow in her San Diego garden.

GROWING LILACS

BY BARBARA S. JONES

THE LILAC, SYRINGA VULGARIS, is one of the most popular plants in America and Europe. Native to southeastern Europe, it was one of the earliest plants taken to America where it flourished in New England. As settlers moved west, they carried the plant with them. Not only is it enjoyed for the beautiful clusters of flowers, but it is a popular fragrance for perfume and soaps. It is memorialized in poem and song. It is a wonderful cut flower.

The traditional varieties need winter chill and will not grow in the San Diego area except in the mountains. But not now! Descanso Hybrids, developed by Dr. Walter Lammerts, will grow here. He spent several years developing a lilac that would blossom without winter chilling. The first successful plant was named 'Lavender Lady'. There are several varieties now — even a white one.

The traditional varieties bud in January, start to get new foliage in March, and have spectacular flowers in April and May. Plants can have flowers of white, violet, blue, pink, magenta, purple (not all on the same plant). Our low-chill varieties bloom in April and May. Our varieties are violet and white.

Descanso Hybrids like an alkaline soil and are almost disease and insect free. It takes several years for the plant to settle down and produce full size and true color flowers. So, do not give up and yank it out the first year.

Mary Truby has been growing a Descanso Hybrid for three years in North County. She planted a one-gallon size plant she obtained from her local nurseryman in a bed in her lawn. No special care. No bugs, no diseases. The first year, no flowers. The second year, two flowers. The third year, it is a magnificent six foot by six foot plant covered with wonderfully fragrant and beautiful lilac-colored lilacs. Still no bugs or diseases, and no special care. It is deciduous. □

This new plant is supposed to do well in this area. If you are growing it in the area, please call the editor at the San Diego Floral Association office (619) 232-5762 and let her know how it is doing. □

Barbara Jones has been growing in the San Diego area for over 60 years and writing for California Garden for over thirty years.

Illustration by James Dery, DBF Photographic.

Now Is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES, UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, AND *CALIFORNIA GARDEN* STAFF

AFRICAN VIOLETS
Helen LaGamma

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CHECK that plants are not crowded.

TO KEEP violets well groomed.

TO PLACE pans of wet pebbles among plants to increase humidity.

TO USE a fan to circulate the air to prevent mildew.

TO USE cool light tubes if violets are under lights. If using natural lighting, place plants farther away from source.

BEGONIAS

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REPOT plants if needed — step up to next size container.

TO MAKE cuttings when trimming or pruning.

TO GROOM and inspect plants throughout growing season.

TO CHECK for mildew — spray at once for control.

TO CHECK for snails, slugs, and fungus.

TO POT rooted cuttings and leaves.

TO CONTINUE feeding.

TO REMOVE old flowers from tuberous type by snapping off the blossoms not the stems.

TO FEED tuberous plants when flower buds appear. Feed one tablespoon High-Bloom and one tablespoon of fish emulsion to one gallon of water.

BONSAI
San Diego Bonsai Club

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER, water, water — but not overwater. During the hot months it is best to water early in the day. Some bonsai may need two or three waterings on hot, dry days.

TO TURN some trees for even sun exposure.

TO PROTECT some plants by moving into a shaded area out of direct sun.

TO CHECK for insects and pests — spray with a diluted spray. (Be careful with elm trees, which usually do not need spraying.)

TO MIST or spray foliage of certain bonsai, those which are humidity-loving, in the evening or early morning.

TO WAIT until September or October to transplant bonsai.

TO REMOVE excess blossoms from trees to save their strength for next year. Defoliate some of the deciduous varieties in July — not later.

BROMELIADS
Mary Siemers

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PROTECT plants from burning during the hot weather by placing them under lath, shadecloth, clear fiberglass, or trees.

TO INCREASE the frequency of water according to the temperature, but do not allow the soil to become soggy.

TO CONTINUE to fertilize once a month during summer — using water soluble, high acid fertilizer. Use one-half of strength recommended on label.

TO REMEMBER to water plants one day before fertilizing.

TO CUT off shoots (pups) to make new plants while weather is warm. Remove when they are ⅓ or ½ the size of the mother plant.

TO KEEP plants clean by cutting off spent blooms and dead leaves.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS
Joseph Betzler

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH plants during hot weather. If they dry out too much they can shrivel and burn in the sun. Protect delicate specimens from the sun with screen.

TO WATER plants carefully. Some like to dry between waterings, others can take it wetter. Use less on the plants that are dormant.

TO FERTILIZE growing plants but do not overfeed. A good rule of thumb is ½ strength every other watering.

TO WATCH plants for pests — especially snails. Treat immediately but be careful with insecticides.

TO CHECK for plants that need repotting and do so.
TO ENJOY your collection — take a little time to look at your plants.

CAMELLIAS
Camillia Society

NOW IS THE TIME
TO CONTINUE to feed cottonseed meal at the rate of 1 tablespoon per gallon per plant, April 1, June 1, and August 1.
TO WATCH for loopers and aphids and spray with a recommended spray if necessary.
TO MULCH the area around the plants and do not let them completely dry out. New growth is about 90% water and if allowed to dry out will shrivel and die. Older growth may droop but will come back when watered.

DAHLIAS
Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME
TO KEEP old blossoms cut back to first of leaves from the main stalk to prolong blooming.
TO DISBUD to encourage better blooms.
TO TIE canes to prevent plants breaking — use a loop for each cane.
TO CONTINUE regular watering program.
TO SPRAY for insects and mildew; control slugs and snails.
TO FEED with a 5-10-10 fertilizer.
TO CUT blossoms in late afternoon or early morning and place immediately in water.

EPIPHYLLUMS
San Diego Epiphyllum Society

NOW IS THE TIME
TO WATCH moisture — spray or mist is beneficial during hot dry weather. Spray during evening hours or early morning.
TO REPOT plants that are rootbound.
TO TAKE new cuttings.
TO KEEP plants out of full summer sun; they need filtered sunlight and free air movement.
TO REMOVE spent blooms and unwanted "apples" to conserve the plant's vitality.
TO PLANT new cuttings during the warm weather allowing new growth to become established during the growing season.
TO WATER hybrids during the hot summer months, spray occasionally or mist. Do not allow soil to dry out completely.
TO CONTINUE pest and disease prevention using products according to the manufacturers' directions.
TO FERTILIZE for new growth. Use 10-10-15 strength at this time.

FERNS
San Diego Fern Society

NOW IS THE TIME
TO SPRAY for aphids and scale; keep snails, pill bugs, and slugs under control.
TO FERTILIZE plants regularly with a high nitrogen fertilizer. They are in their growing period.
TO WATER and maintain humidity by keeping the surrounding areas damp.
TO TRIM dead fronds.
TO PLANT fern spores.
TO PROTECT from the hot sun.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES
Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME
TO MONITOR soil moisture within the root zone and irrigate when soil begins to dry. Periodically apply enough water to leach salts below plant roots (3-4 feet deep).
TO SUPPORT limbs that have a heavy fruit load to prevent breakage.
TO BEGIN harvesting fruit as soon as it is ripe.
TO REMOVE fruit that is damaged or on the ground to discourage green fruit beetles and other insect scavengers.
TO PRUNE out shoots killed by fire blight on pear, apple, quince, and loquat. Make cuts at least 12 inches below (if possible) infected tissue and disinfect pruning shears between cuts.
TO KEEP ants off trees and periodically wash foliage with a forceful spray of water to promote biological control of spider mites, aphids, whiteflies, scale, and other insects.
TO INSPECT new leaves for signs of zinc and iron deficiency (yellowing between veins). Apply micronutrient spray if needed.
TO PRUNE out blackberry and raspberry canes that have borne fruit.

FUCHSIAS
San Diego Fuchsia & Shade Plant Society

NOW IS THE TIME
TO SPRAY to control insects. Orthene will control most pests: aphids, leafhoppers, caterpillars, leaf miners, thrips, and whitefly. Use manufacturers'

instructions.

TO SNIP off runners for shape and new growth.

TO PRUNE lightly to encourage more fall blooms.

TO KEEP foliage misted. Spray only in the shade or early evening.

TO AVOID overwatering; keep damp, not wet.

TO FERTILIZE regularly with high phosphorus for buds and bloom.

TO REMOVE spent blooms and seed pods to encourage more and larger blooms.

GERANIUMS (PELARGONIUMS)
Carol Roller

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER thoroughly when plants become relatively dry. Do this before the heat of the day. Each watering should moisten the entire soil ball. Excess water should drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible.

TO CONTINUE feeding a soluble, balanced fertilizer with micronutrients. Use at less than the recommended strength as often as needed to keep plants from developing nutritional deficiencies. Water and feed before the heat of the day. Do not feed if plants have become too dry.

TO CONTINUE pest and disease prevention, using products according to the manufacturers' directions.

TO GROOM plants, removing discolored leaves and faded flowers. The old bloom stalks on regals, scenteds, and similar types should be cut away with a sharp blade.

TO TAKE cuttings from zonals and ivies, if desired. Each cutting should have a healthy growing tip. Trim and insert into a moistened, sterile medium.

TO PROTECT cuttings and tender plants from the sun if temperatures are high. Move to a sheltered spot or create overhead shade. Keep summer-dormant plants dry and away from excessive heat.

TO CONTINUE to rotate pots on a regular basis in order to keep plants well shaped.

HERBS
John Noble

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PREPARE gourmet meals with fresh basil and tomatoes.

TO DRY bundles of oregano, thyme, sage, tarragon, lemon grass, rosemary, lemon balm, gotu kola, stevia, lavender, and raspberry leaf. Hang herbs in a dry, ventilated area that is protected from direct sun.

TO PRUNE back plants that are taking over pathways or smothering other plants.

TO WATER wisely. Comfrey is a great water gauge. When its leaves droop, it is time to give it and other water loving plants, like the mints, a good deep watering. Be careful not to over water your lavender, thyme, aloe, sage, rosemary, fremontodendron, and other damp-sensitive herbs.

TO MAKE herbal sun tea and to add a sprig of fresh mint when serving.

TO FREEZE borage flowers in ice cubes (pinch off sepals) for elegant cool drinks.

TO ENJOY the long days of summer in your herb garden.

IRIS
Iris Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO SPADE and work humus into the soil to revitalize before planting rhizomes.

TO FEED plants left in the ground with a high nitrogen fertilizer — this one time only.

TO DIVIDE and replant tall bearded iris, taking only the new rhizomes attached to the outer edges of the mother clump. Dust ends of cut rhizomes with soil sulfur.

TO KEEP iris beds clean and free of old fans and weeds.

TO WATCH for aphids; use a light insecticide or a systemic.

TO CUT off spuria iris foliage, but do not dig until September.

NATIVE PLANTS
Jeanine De Hart

NOW IS THE TIME

TO MAKE sure we have the weeds pulled before they go to seed. When there is more than normal rainfall, we can expect more weeds than normal, too!

TO PLAN for fall planting. While your garden is in bloom, notice the plants that need replacing and the gaps that need filled. Remember that the fall is the best time to plant the natives, but the earlier you do your planning, the easier the task of obtaining the plants you want for fall planting.

TO REMEMBER that there are a number of plant sales held in October and November. Pick your favorite and let those in charge know what you would like. It helps them make better choices and you can be assured that your personal favorites will be available. California Native Plant Society and Lake Hodges Native Plant Club are two that have fall sales.

TO USE snail bait around shade-loving natives as the snails will be abundant after our unexpected rainy spring. Be on the lookout for their slimy trails all over your garden.

ORCHIDS
Charles Fouquette

NOW IS THE TIME

TO KEEP an eye out for infestations of scale and spider mite.

TO USE the proper pesticide and keep in mind that at this time of year with low humidity and warm weather, there are continuous hatches of insects.

TO CHECK all potting mixes for good drainage. We do not want rotting potting mixes.

TO MIST and spray on hot, dry days.

TO CHECK new seedlings and community pots. Do not let them dry out or get sunburned. Dry air caused by winds from the interior will desiccate small plants.

TO PLANT any keikis (offshoots) from *Dendrobium, Phalaenopsis, Vanda, Ascocenda,* etc., when roots are about two inches long.

TO CHECK the root tips of growing *Phalaenopsis* and other vandaceous plants (air roots). If the tip is green and elongated, the water and humidity are about right. If the tips are white, that indicates more water is needed or more humidity is required. This often applies to other genera also.

TO HAVE most monopodial (a growth habit in which new leaves develop from the same meristem or growing point) orchids dry by nightfall, so water will not sit in the leaf axil.

ROSES
Marianne Truby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FLOOD each basin at least twice, filling each basin with water prior to feeding. This will help reduce the salt build-up in the growing area. Deep watering is essential and lack of rain contributes to salt build up. If you are using a drip system, supplement it with deep watering on a monthly basis.

TO WASH off foliage in early morning with strong spray of water to control mites and keep leaves clean.

TO MAINTAIN beds with organic mulch to keep soil cool and friable. Some mulching materials deplete the nitrogen supply in the soil and you may wish to compensate by adding some form of nitrogen to maintain healthy green foliage.

TO MAINTAIN good air circulation in your beds by removing small spurs and greenery that will not contribute to the growth of the plant and will encourage unwanted insects and disease. Protect any new basal growth.

TO PRUNE lightly in early August to encourage new growth that will encourage blooms into late November.

TO APPLY gypsum (calcium sulfate), an inorganic soil amendment. It does not change the pH, but added to alkaline soil it reacts with the insoluble sodium compounds to form sodium sulfate, which is soluble and can be leached out by HEAVY penetration. You MUST WATER, WATER. Sprinkle gypsum over entire bed and lightly rake in before flooding.

TO FOLLOW UP with a cup of alfalfa meal or pellets, a great root growth stimulant (available at most feed stores). Continue with your regular feeding program. Roses are heavy feeders and enjoy a change of diet. Add a handful of epsom salts to each bush at this time time to enhance the green foliage. Above all keep unnecessary vegetation from the rose by cultivation of the bed and/or mulch.

TO REALIZE that most rose ratings are based upon a nation-wide (or world-wide) study with completely diverse growing conditions and our climate often will not produce these results. If you do remove a plant, check it over to note the possibility of root gall, a white porous growth frequently appearing near the bud union, which has been caused by a careless shovel or cultivator. It is a good time to dig a large hole, replace the growing medium, and be ready for a replacement.

TO PRESERVE old favorite varieties that may no longer be available. Often roses will start growing on their own roots as the bud union sinks below normal ground level. Some varieties that I now have growing with great vigor are my Papa Meilland, and Peter Frankenfeld. Research local gardens for varieties that will do well in your area.

VEGETABLES
Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO MAKE last planting of warm-season vegetables (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, corn, beans, summer squash) in July for fall harvest.

TO PLANT seed of cole crops (cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower) in August for winter harvest.

TO COVER seed with floating row cover to protect young plants from insect pests.

TO WITHHOLD water from rhubarb and artichoke and allow plants to go dormant until fall.

TO CONTROL corn earworm, apply Carbaryl (Sevin) or *Bt* when silk first emerges, then every three days until silk turns brown.

INSPIRING! (Editor)

EATING FRESH IS EATING BEST

BY LIZ BALL

VEGETABLE GARDENERS ARE ALWAYS asked: "Why do you spend so much time and effort growing your food, when it is readily available at food stores?" Good question. There are lots of answers—probably as many answers as there are vegetable gardeners. However, most agree that while there are also significant intangible physical and spiritual benefits to be gained from the vigorous outdoor exertion involved in coaxing food from the soil, it is the tangible benefits that are easiest to describe.

Homegrown food is freshest. Unlike store produce, backyard fruits and vegetables are picked at their peak ripeness. The longest distance they have to travel is measured in feet to the kitchen, not miles across the country. This means that they taste better than anything you can buy. Anyone who has plucked a ripe, sun-warmed tomato or crisp sugar snap pea and promptly eaten it while standing in the garden knows what taste really is. The freshest vegetables are also the most nutritious. They are picked ripe with their full complement of vitamins.

Homegrown food is the safest. These days everyone is alert to the various issues in the production of food. While enormous strides have been made in regulating and minimizing the use of pesticide products in domestic food production, there is still concern about residues on store bought produce. Unlike commercially grown vegetables that are raised in a monoculture, backyard vegetables benefit from the presence of a diversity of plants on the property that host beneficial insects. When there is a problem, the gardener can choose from a wide range of remedies—cultural, mechanical, and biological—to deal with weeds, insects, and critters to minimize or avoid the use of pesticides.

Modern Vegetables for Modern Life

Homegrown food is convenient. These days this is no small issue. The availability of fresh fruits and vegetables just outside the back door offers a whole different way to use and serve food. A constant supply of fresh, nutritious food simplifies modern life where meal times are *ad hoc* events squeezed in among conflicting family schedules. Dinner parties are often cooperative affairs where both guests and hosts prepare the meal after the guests arrive. (Sending guests out to pick vegetables from the garden is a great icebreaker, and it provides entertainment as well!)

The advent of new plant hybrids supports the trends in contemporary life where the emphasis is on saving time and eating healthy. Fresh vegetables in the yard reduce both time-consuming trips to the supermarket and meal preparation time. No need to spend time removing peas from their pods, thanks to sugar snap peas that have edible pods and taste delicious raw or steamed. Neither is there a need to cook tender young carrots, peas, corn, peppers, summer squashes, and other crops from the garden at all. Unlike the old days when grandma had to seriously overcook string beans so that the "strings" would be tender, modern green beans have no strings. Already tender, they are delicious raw or heated briefly in a little water in the microwave oven. Homegrown vegetables, then, provide quick meals, and food featuring maximum fiber and nutrition.

Homegrown food offers the most diversity as well as convenience. Gardeners can chose from a huge number of vegetable varieties featuring interesting colors, shapes, and sizes never available at stores. There are little bite-sized peppers that are ready for dips and

salads in no time at all. Small softball-sized cabbages are perfect for today's smaller families, eliminating waste and saving preparation time.

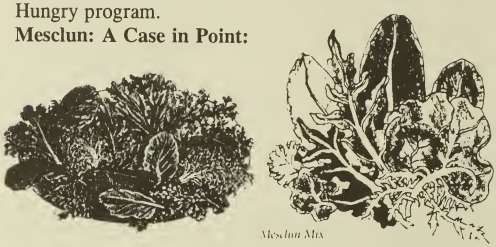
Grape-sized tomatoes that literally burst with flavor are perfect for bag lunches. Tomatoes, potatoes, lettuce, eggplants, Swiss chard, and even corn are now available in a rainbow of colors. There are yellow watermelons, striped beets, purple beans, pink eggplants, purple asparagus, and blue potatoes in the garden, but not necessarily on store shelves. Vegetable gardeners can choose from several different kinds of parsley, basil, mint, and oregano. Homegrown food offers variety. Why just eat only purple eggplant when you can dine on white, black, deep pink, green, or purple and white striped eggplant grown in your own garden? Red, white, and blue potatoes from your garden can provide a patriotic 4th of July salad. The possibilities are endless—and fun.

Homegrown food offers fun for children. Unusual vegetable shapes, colors, and sizes are appealing to children, and many of these specialty vegetables are only available in seed. Children can have fun growing white pumpkins, orange watermelons, UFO-shaped summer squash, blue potatoes, golden beets, violet radishes, or round yellow cucumbers. They will likely even want to taste the vegetables they have grown in their own garden.

Homegrown food offers edible table centerpieces. Purple, green, red, yellow, and orange sweet bell peppers make a beautiful, easy edible table arrangement when placed in a pretty basket. Ornamental peppers in casual terra cotta pots or in elegant crystal also make a striking arrangement. For a patriotic theme, try a large brandy snifter of red, white, and purple radishes. For fragrance, you cannot beat a container full of sweet smelling basils and parsleys.

Homegrown food offers the opportunity to share your bounty. You can help feed family, friends, and neighbors or the less fortunate. You can help fight hunger by donating your produce to a neighborhood food pantry or participating in the Plant A Row for the Hungry program.

Mesclun: A Case in Point:



Nothing represents the way modern vegetable garden crops suit modern life like the wonderful lettuce seed mixtures called "mesclun" that are available now. From the Provençal region of France, the idea of planting and then harvesting many types of greens mixed together has been enthusiastically adopted in this country. Fancy restaurants feature mesclun on their menus, and grocery stores sell it for an impressive $8.99 a pound. These assortments of greens are appreciated for their sophisticated mixture of flavors, textures, and colors; their wholesome taste; and their ease of preparation. Gardeners have discovered that they are wonderfully easy (and economical) to grow, as well.

Mesclun has all the virtues of homegrown food. It yields for a long period of time, it does not need cooking, and it is nutritious, beautiful, sophisticated, and delicious. Commercially packaged seed assortments typically feature plants with a variety of colors, flavors, and textures such as peppery mustard greens, bittersweet chicory, tender butterhead, arugula, crunchy romaine, mâche [corn salad], endive, cress, anise-tasting chervil, and, perhaps, some parsley. Gardeners can make their own custom mesclun by mixing the seeds of several types of lettuces and other greens to suit family tastes.

So, when someone asks, "Why bother with a vegetable garden when there is lots of produce at the store?" I invite him or her over for dinner on a summer evening. We begin the meal and the discussion with a mesclun salad. □

From "Today's Garden" May 2001, the National Garden Bureau, 1311 Butterfield Road, Suite 310, Downers Grove, IL 60515 (www.ngb.org) Illustrations on vegetable pages courtesy of Shepherd's Garden Seeds, 30 Irene St., Torrington CT 06790.

SUMMER VEGETABLE GARDEN

THE SPRING VEGETABLES HAVE passed their peak — it is time to start planting the summer vegetable garden. This is an excellent time to set plants of eggplant, pepper, and tomato; to plant seeds of beans, carrots; a second planting of summer squash — and do not forget corn.

To insure a better yield, continue to build up the soil by adding compost and other organic materials. Spade at least full shovel depth. Soak **deeply** and let mellow. Before planting, rake the surface to break up any crust. Do not water again until the tiny plants appear. The deep soaking before planting provides adequate moisture for the germination cycle.

Beans	**Plant any of the beans; limas can still be planted.**
Summer squash	**Plant six or seven seeds in hills making sure water cannot stand around stems. Thin to the three strongest plants.**
Carrots	**Short stubby or half-long are more satisfactory in summer. Mixing seed with sand makes planting easier. Do not let carrots dry out at any time.**
Celery	**Plants may be set out in late July. Instead of harvesting the whole plant, snip a few leaves or stalks as needed.**
Corn	**Plant in blocks of short rows for better pollination. Cornstalks for Halloween!**

Alethe Macdonald

Reprinted from California Garden, July-August 1981 (72:4:105)

GROWING VEGETABLES IN *SUNSET* ZONE 24

BY ARTHUR DAWSON

CORN

MY FRIENDS OFTEN EXPRESS surprise that we can grow corn in our cool, overcast summers in La Jolla. In fact, **it is one of our most successful summer vegetables, but it is important to select the right varieties**. With our small family is easy to grow too much because a healthy plant will produce two or even three ears, and one planting will reach its prime over perhaps a ten-day period. Therefore, we make small plantings three to four weeks apart, perhaps five in all, **beginning in mid-March and continuing until late August.**

Corn does fine planted straight into the ground but, to save space, we generally plant a single pony pack with three seeds per compartment. That should provide a dozen plants that can be set out about 6 inches apart when the roots emerge at the bottom of the pack. They can be transplanted easily by shaking off the potting mix if the roots are tangled. I plant them in three rows to assist wind pollination. If the plants are not in a clump there is more risk of "misses" in the ear. You can assist pollination by going out in the evening when the air is still and tapping the stems. If it is done at the right time, this will produce a downpour of pollen onto the silks.

The plants grow quickly and need plenty of water and fertilizer. Corn is a grass, and it thrives on any lawn fertilizer.

Corn earworm can attack in large numbers and make the ears nearly useless if worms are allowed to thrive unchecked. Dusting the tassels with *Bt* or carbaryl (Sevin) is fairly effective, but it has to be done a couple of times, when the silks first appear and before they

begin to dry. We still get heavy infestations sometimes, perhaps because of dusting too late. Once the caterpillars have hatched and reached the ears, there is nothing for it but to kill them by hand. After the silks have dried, strip back the husks and kill the worms while they are still small. Even then you probably will find a few caterpillars when you harvest the ears, and you must cut off the tips. The damage is unsightly, but it will let the connoisseur know that he is eating true organic home-grown corn.

We have tried many sorts over the years but, in the last few, have settled on 'Illini X-tra Sweet' (Burpee, Park), a yellow super sweet, and 'Rose Queen' (Burpee), a new type with red kernels. The latter is not especially sweet, but it has a rich corn flavor. It can be harvested over about three weeks, unlike most, which come on all at once. The super sweet types have been developed to retain their sweetness over several days of storage. If you follow the old rule, "Don't pick the ears until the water is boiling," you may find the sugar excessive until you get used to really sweet corn.

There are a number of other varieties, including white and bicolor types, but we have found these two very reliable. Many people claim that white varieties have the best taste, but I find they lack the real corn flavor. If you do prefer a white, then 'Silver Queen' is a good choice.

THE COLE VEGETABLES

If you plan to harvest vegetables through the winter, then the cole vegetables are your best bet. On the coast I have had the most success with cabbages, cauliflower, and broccoli. In our warm coastal conditions Brussels sprouts head up poorly and their flavor is mediocre. They are devastated by grey aphids. After a number of disappointments, I have stopped growing them.

I have found that success with cole crops is very dependent on growing the right varieties. The ones that I mention have done well consistently for me though I am sure there are others that would be equally satisfactory. You may want to get a start on the season by buying pony packs, but that will give you too many plants ready for harvest at the same time, and you will take your chances on what variety you get. It is much better to order seed from the catalogs because you will not find the varieties I mention in the local nurseries. The hybrids may seem expensive at two dollars or more for a package of thirty seeds, but with fresh seed the germination is almost 100 percent. I plant five seeds of an early season variety in a three-inch pot with the expectation of setting out two or three plants. I start a new planting every three or four weeks. Remember that as the days shorten and the nights cool in the late fall, the earlier plantings will grow faster than the later ones and so the interval between plantings can be shortened progressively. The reverse should be done in the spring. Growth of the seedlings is sped up if they are kept under lights at night and even more if they are placed on a warming pad. I set out the plants when they begin to crowd each other in the pot or when roots can be seen emerging from the holes in the bottom.

Slugs and cabbage butterflies are the bane of cole vegetables. When the plants are small or after a rain, they should be protected with a light application of snail bait every few days. I dust them with carbaryl (Sevin) until they are about eight inches high. After that, the cabbage butterflies are not much of a problem on cabbages and cauliflower, but *Bt* is a non-toxic agent to keep them under control. Caterpillars are nasty in the broccoli florets and so something has to be used until about a week before harvest. Once waxy grey aphids appear on a plant I have found nothing will get rid of them. It is best to pull the plant out before its neighbors are infected.

Cole vegetables grow quickly and they need to be fertilized heavily. You are growing mostly leaves and so any high-nitrogen fertilizer is satisfactory, even ammonium sulfate. Once the plants are established, I poke four holes about four inches deep around each plant with a broom handle and drop about half a tablespoon of fertilizer in each hole. Then a heavy watering is needed to avoid burning the plants.

Broccoli is an uninteresting vegetable if it has languished in the supermarket. It has a wonderful flavor when eaten on the day of harvest and remains quite good for a couple of days. If it is kept longer than that, then I can see what George Bush, Sr. was complaining about. 'Packman' (Stokes, Park, Nichols) is very reliable and has an excellent flavor. After the initial head has been cut, the side shoots can be harvested for several weeks. We have had mixed success with broccoli raab and 'Romanesco'. They seem to require ideal growing conditions while 'Packman' can be planted at any time.

After trying many varieties, I have settled on 'Snow Crown' (Stokes, Nichols) as the best **cauliflower**. It

should be cut early before the heads show any sign of breaking into florets. Tying the leaves over the heads may preserve their whiteness, but the flavor is fine even if they turn a cream color. As with broccoli, the flavor is much better if they are eaten within a day or two of harvest. We have had occasional success with purple cauliflower, but unless growing conditions are ideal, they form stunted heads.

Unless you want to use a lot of pesticide you need to select **cabbage** varieties with care. If the heads are not very tight, caterpillars and slugs will set up housekeeping between the leaves and you will find yourself having to discard most of the head. For this reason, I have given up on Savoy cabbage and Chinese cabbage. 'Stonehead', as its name implies, keeps the pests out of the centers very well, but its flavor is only fair. **The best tasting green cabbage I have found is the heirloom Dutch variety, 'Glory of Enkhuizen', but it is slow to mature and the head is large for a small family.** I am still looking for an excellent early-maturing green cabbage. 'Atlantis' (Stokes) is quite good, and it is what I plant currently. 'Raven' (Stokes) is a very good red cabbage. The seed tends to be short lived, and so it must be ordered fresh each season.

Kohlrabi is worth growing to provide some variation in the winter harvest. Any of the available varieties have done well for me. They can be planted directly in the ground and two plantings in rows a foot long will supply all we can use in a season.

The cole vegetables can be grown on the coast most of the year. However, **I begin planting them at the end of August and continue until early February** because space is plentiful during the winter. In March, when the planting of summer vegetables begins in earnest, space is at a premium. Tomatoes, beans, cucumbers, and corn demand a lot of room, and so the home gardener learns to enjoy each vegetable in its season. □

Arthur Dawson is a retired physician with thirty years of growing experience.

Reprinted, with permission, from "The Spindrifter" for May 2001, the newsletter of The Village Garden Club of La Jolla (California).

["Birth of a Plantsman," continued from page 105]

Although it took a lot of courage for a Northern California boy to negotiate the giant Los Angeles Freeway System, I was undeterred in my search for the plants. As it turned out, at that time most of them were even rare in Southern California nurseries. But I did find them at botanical gardens—the Arboretum, the Huntington, and UCLA being primary sources of cuttings that I took back to Santa Cruz to form the nucleus of my first backyard nursery. Not only did I find some great plants; I made some great friends at these gardens whom I visited again and again in what became a lifelong search for more and more uncommon (and uncommonly beautiful) plants. One yellow flower, then one book—and a career was born. There have been many flowers since, and many books—but none so exciting as those first ones. Twenty-five years later, I have found almost all of the plants in *Color for the Landscape* (but there are still a few I haven't found yet).

As I have said, my story may not be all that special. But the lesson it can teach us surely is. I was fortunate enough as a young man to have a teacher that cared enough to tell me about a book and to encourage me to try my wings. Perhaps you know someone who is just getting interested in plants—or would like to. Take the time to give them a book. Make sure it has lots of good color photos! Take the time to show them some flowers. Take the time to encourage them to get to know the plants—and grow them. For who knows—you may be the one to inspire the great plant collector of tomorrow! □

Steve Brigham is a horticulturist and nurseryman who has lived in North San Diego County since 1980. During his twenty-five-year career, he has worked both as an employee and volunteer for several major botanical gardens and nurseries, and has introduced many flowering plants into the nursery trade. In 1988 he founded Buena Creek Gardens in San Marcos, a retail rare plant nursery that he has owned since 1996. Steve's mission, and the mission of Buena Creek Gardens, is "to collect, grow, display, promote, and distribute new and uncommon varieties of ornamental plants for Southern California gardens."

Illustration by Roland Stewart Hoyt from his book *Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions* (available from S.D. Floral Association).

GERBERAS

BY SKIPPER COPE

THE GERBERA, NAMED FOR a German botanist, Traugott Gerber, is a perennial native to Transvaal in South Africa. *Gerbera jamesonii*, commonly called the Transvaal daisy has been gaining in popularity every year. The flowers rise on graceful 18-inch stems from a rosette of lobed 10-inch long leaves. The smallest flowers are 3 to 4 inches in diameter and the largest may reach 7 to 8 inches across. They come in a variety of forms and a wide range of colors—lavender, apricot, chartreuse, or flame—every color except blue.

The flowers are almost as varied in form as in color, with the petals varying in width from very coarse to extremely fine. Hybridizers are producing doubles with short rays (petals) outlined by layers of longer rays radiating from an open center that may be either yellow or dark. Others have all long rays forming what one might call a pleated circle around the open center. In some forms the rays cover the disk completely. These are called duplex by the growers. Some flowers may be striped and some plants are dwarf. The flowers with extremely fine petals are, appropriately enough, called threads. Then, of course, the original singles are always desirable.

In order to get the exact color and form that appeals to you personally, it is advisable to buy plants when they are in bloom, if possible. However, they are available in bare root, seed or seedlings as one prefers. Seeds should be started in flats and the seedlings planted in beds or containers when they have three leaves. The soil needs no extensive preparation, but plants must have heavy feedings of rose food or any good well-balanced food during height of bloom. (Once per month in heavy soil and twice per month in light soil.)

Choose young vigorous clumps three to four years old when making divisions. Lift just as the plants are starting a new growth cycle in the early spring and have both new leaves and flower buds. Each division should have at least two clusters or eyes. Cut the roots back to 5 or 6 inches to encourage new root growth, and plant in fresh sterilized soil, either in a container or in the ground. Water well with B_1 solution added to reduce shock and fertilize when reestablished.

When transplanting, one must be careful to keep the crown well above the soil surface. It is essential that the crowns remain free of soil and moisture. As clumps grow, the roots tend to pull the crown down below ground level. If the soil is not removed and crown kept open to light and air, the plant will commit suicide.

Gerberas need lots of water, but good drainage is absolutely essential. Planting on a slight slope is ideal. The gerbera is a sun-loving plant, but it can stand considerable cold if of short duration. The clump will not die, but the blooms will be retarded.

A large commercial grower highly recommends growing them as pot or tub plants. Use sterilized, prepared soil mix. The eight-inch pots available at nurseries contain six-month old plants that have their first flowers. By the time the plant is one year old, it should have continuous bloom, about 75 blossoms a year, and more as the clump becomes larger. A tub specimen should do well and bloom almost continuously for three to five years. When the plant becomes large, part of the foliage should be ripped out of the center to allow light and air to penetrate. If they are fertilized regularly, get plenty of sunshine and water with good drainage, gerberas will bloom profusely and the flowers will last from two to three weeks on the plant.

The flowers on each plant are the same color, but the shade may vary slightly at different times of the year because of changes in the density of natural light. A change in fertilizer can cause a slight variation in color, too. A bit of blood meal now and then makes the colors more vibrant.

Flowers with coarse, broad petals are better for cut flowers. If they are arranged in warm water with some floral preservative added, they will last from seven to ten days; slit the bottom of the stem up about an inch. Flowers should never be cut from the clump, but should be pinched off as low as possible with the fingers. This helps to prevent diseases from entering the plant.

So, whether one wants long-blooming, free-flowering plants for the garden and patio, or many lovely long-lasting cut flowers, or both, the beautiful answer is gerberas!□

Reprinted from *California Garden*, Sept.-Oct. 1978 (69:5:151).

Book Reviews

THE SAGE GARDEN: Flowers and Foliage for Health and Beauty
Ann Lovejoy
San Francisco, Chronicle Books, 2001, 144 pages, 32 color photos, 7⅝" x 8⅜", hardcover, $17.95

It is curious to note that the botanical world salvia relates to the Latin words for save, whole, safe, and healthy. Salvia enthusiasts will be delighted to learn that their favorite plants are so beneficial and useful.

Beginning with the vibrant colors of sages found in meadows, the author goes on to discuss the many roles of sages in gardens: They entice bees and butterflies, mix well in perennial and annual beds, thrive in dry situations and, last but not least, provide scent to the garden and flavor in the kitchen. The many specific varieties fulfilling these functions are clearly described in word and photo in the first section of the book.

The author then discusses the many specific uses for health and beauty as well as cooking and crafting. Sage oils, sage teas, sage soups, and canapes, even sage smoothies and sorbets are laid out in concise recipes. All of which explains why so many Southern California gardeners are so devoted to this multi-faceted plant.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

CRYSTAL PALACES: Garden Conservatories of the United States
Anne S. Cunningham
New York, Princeton Architectural Press, 2000, 176 pages, 170 color photos, 10" x 10", hardcover, $45

Conservatories were once the province of wealthy landowners who sent plant finders to the tropics and other exotic places to bring home unusual specimens for their collections. As such, they were considered a symbol of the aristocracy and it wasn't until the mid-nineteenth century, when the Crystal Palace was built in London, enclosing trees, shrubs, and flowers in a wonderland of light and space, that such gardens could be democratic and accessible to all.

Since then, glass conservatories have been built primarily to provide environments for plants that could not otherwise survive in that location. Particularly in the Northern Hemisphere, they have nurtured tropical species in carefully contrived "natural" settings that not only expand the public's awareness of exotic plant life but also simulate a sunny respite from the cold, dark days of winter. In this handsome book, a chilly view of the St. Paul, Minnesota Como Park Conservatory, surrounded by snow, emphasizes the point. In contrast is the Rio Grande Botanical Garden in Albuquerque, New Mexico, which specializes in regional plants to familiarize its patrons with the beauty and possibilities in their own area.

This and two dozen more conservatories have been selected by the author to show a range of architectural styles as well as plant collections. The endpapers design of conservatory "footprints" introduces the theme of variation, from the Victorian Golden Gate Park Conservatory in San Francisco to the contemporary structures in San Antonio, Texas and Rock Island, Illinois. The latter deal with climate control by placing the actual gardens below ground, with glass towers above. Most conservatories are in public gardens but two are the work of private owners, George Vanderbilt and Doris Duke.

Each site is shown in color photographs with a description of its history, purpose, and data on size, location, open days and phone numbers. A glossary and list of other American conservatories is at the end of the book.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

THE SWEET BREATHING OF PLANTS: Women Writing on the Green World
Linda Hogan and Brenda Peterson, Editors
New York, Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 2001, 288 pages, 6⅛" x 9¼", hardcover, $24

Women's affinity with the natural world extends from plants and trees to healing and scientific research. This compact volume, the second in an intended trilogy, offers a rich anthology of poetry and literature, short pieces that may inspire a deepening understanding of how our planet is made and how it works ... or doesn't work, as the case may be. These are not necessarily environmental essays, so much as a collection of feminine perspectives focused on the nurturing of nature as a way to nurture our own lives.

The variety of subjects is huge. In just the first fifty pages we find writings on orchids, roses, mold, and mulch, the latter two exploring the wonders of sour dough starter and compost, respectively. The healing properties of plants and the enrichment of the natural world range from female herbalists of the Middle Ages to the mystery of the Everglades. Rachel Carson's exploration of earth's green mantle describes the scope of plant/animal symbiosis and the danger to our ecosystem through the use of chemical herbicides.

At the end of the book are short descriptions of the anthology's contributors. Even the reader who only occasionally dips into this book will find not only good information, but also much food for thought.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

THE ORCHID IN LORE AND LEGEND
Luigi Berliocchi
Portland, Timber Press, 2000, 200 pages, 16 color photos, 167 b&w photos, 6" x 9", Hardcover, $29.95

The Duke of Devonshire fell in love with orchids in the mid-nineteenth century and eighty years later suffragettes

destroyed the orchid house at Kew Gardens, protesting the "decadent" orchid-mania then sweeping the country. The exotic blooms have inspired all kinds of myths, fears, and expectations, all of which are brightly explored in this handsome little book. With a flowing text illustrated with beautiful small botanical drawings on most pages, the late author, an Italian garden historian, has produced a fascinating read for all levels of orchid interest.

The unusual structure of orchid flowers and roots was the basis for Renaissance theories that they might actually be neither vegetable or animal, but a combination of both. This idea led to the recognition of plant mimicry when Charles Darwin realized that orchids were pollinated by insects that bore a strong resemblance to its flowers. Earlier on Confucius had seen orchids as a symbol for his ideal of purity and subtlety, but to a later Western explorer, stumbling on an orchid growing from the skull in a disturbed grave, the plant represented death and evil.

These ambiguities faded with the dawn of modern science. The expanding cultivation of orchids in greenhouses by the very wealthy was followed by the work of commercial growers for the nursery trade and then for food and medicine. How many cooks know that vanilla flavoring comes from the orchid *Vanilla planifolia*? Descriptions of intrepid plant finders, the magical powers attributed to orchids and the plant's symbolism in literature, art, and religion are all gracefully described.

The last third of the book is a compendium of plant descriptions and growing information. Here we learn of the symbiosis with fungi, whose microscopic organisms live in orchid root cells, feeding the orchid and helping its seeds to germinate while the orchid provides sugar to the fungi from its own photosynthesis. If not magic, orchids are definitely amazing and truly beautiful, as a final section of colored botanical plates reveals.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

THE PLANTFINDER'S GUIDE TO DAISIES

John Sutton

Portland, Timber Press, 2001, 192 pages, 110 color photos, 7½″ x 10¼″, hardcover, $34.95

Daisy is the common name for plants with flowers with a central disk surrounded by a circle of many petals (called ray flowers). The name comes from the Old English words for "day's eye," referring to the flowers that open only in daytime. (Of course, hybrids abound and among the hundreds of new ones each year are those with flowers that stay open longer in dull conditions.) L. H. Bailey (in *Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture*) says the name daisy is used for many flowers in the Asteraceae (Compositae). Earlier it belonged to *Bellis perennis*, native to all Europe. This plant is rarely cultivated, and is considered a weed in lawns. Frequently daisy is modified with English, African, or Michaelmas.

This author also uses the term "daisy" to include all members of the Asteraceae though some do not look exactly like the yellow-centered, white-petaled flower called to mind when hearing the word daisy. The daisy is the largest of plant families and accounts for ten percent of flowering plants. The four best known genera are *Aster*, *Chrysanthemum*, *Dahlia* and *Helianthus* (sunflowers). It is interesting that in three of these the name of the genus is also the common name.

The color plates, always the outstanding feature of this series, are twelve in all: two each for asters, yellow daisies, and perennials, and one each for sunflowers, thistles, cornflowers, everlastings, dahlias, achilleas, and foliage. Only a few of the flowers formerly known as chrysanthemums have remained in the genus. Most have been moved to other genera and the new and old genus is given here as well as a description of florists' chrysanthemums.

In flowers of the Asteraceae, the calyx (usually found below the petals) is usually absent, replaced by a pappus (bristles or scales at the base of the disk flowers) most obvious on thistles and cornflowers. It is often easy to identify a flower to the Asteraceae, but much more difficult to identify the species. Certainly this book will be a great help to those who try.

Reviewed by R. Cox

JAPANESE-INSPIRED GARDENS: Adapting Japan's Design Traditions for your Garden

Patricia Jonas, Guest Editor

Brooklyn, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2001, 111 pages, 75 color photos, 6″ x 9″ softcover, $9.95

Japanese-Inspired Gardens is a new book in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's award-winning 21st-Century Gardening Series. This book offers the home gardener practical advice on basic principles, aesthetics, and design. It is not a do-it-yourself guide. Six recognized experts on Japanese gardens have contributed. Each suggests other books for use in actually constructing a garden.

In a traditional Japanese garden nature is used as the guide rather than having a checklist of features and artifacts that must be included. The traditional effect can be obtained in a very small garden. The book has chapters on pruning plants, on placing paths and rocks, incorporating water in small or large gardens, an encyclopedia of plants, a list of mail-order nursery sources, and a list of other books on the subject. There is a climate map following the short plant encyclopedia where plants are described with an explanation of the situation where the plant would be suitable.

Japanese gardens are popular. This would be a good book to "get your feet wet" with if you are thinking of constructing such a garden.

Reviewed by Barbara Jones

Note: Other recent titles in this series are: *Landscaping Indoors; Bringing the Garden Inside; Natural Disease Control; Old-Fashioned Flowers;* and *Chile Peppers: Hot tips and Tasty Picks for Gardeners and Gourmets*. The handbooks are included as a benefit of Brooklyn Botanical Garden membership or can be purchased individually. For information, call 718-623-7210 or visit their web site: www.bbg.org.

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2001

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1711 Sunset Cliffs Blvd
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4th Wed - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado
Nov & Dec ONLY, 3rd Wed
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Deadline for Sep-Oct issue: Jul 15, 2001

Are you aware that each affiliate group is entitled to a free advertisement once each year? It should be "camera ready" (suitable to be sent to printer). The text should be enclosed in a border. The border must be included when measuring dimensions, which are to be 3.5 (3½) inches wide by 2.25 (2¼) inches high. If done on a computer, please use a font that does not resemble typewriting.

As an experiment, we will try printing special events or speakers at your regular meetings in the Horticultural Calendar, which we have not done before. If you wish to be included, send a separate write-up; we will not be picking them out of your newsletter.

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("Natives and the Long Hot Summer," continued from page 107)

strong resemblance to laurel sumac. Makes a good screen.

Coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*) - With handsome looks and casual cultural requirements, this is a mid-sized shrub with a rounded, formal look. It has berries that start off red and turn to black in the fall. But definitely not a threat to Starbucks.

Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos spp.*) - Desirable evergreens ranging in size from groundcovers to small trees. Many have unique tiny urn-shaped flowers, bird-friendly berries in season, and attractive, richly-colored bark.

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Lilac (*Ceanothus*)

LOOK NOW, PLANT LATER

Some places to see natives in their summer glory include Mission Trails Regional Park; California Nativescapes Botanical Garden at the Wild Animal Park; Torrey Pines State Reserve; the native plant demonstration garden at the Tijuana River Estuary; the native trail at Quail Botanical Gardens; the Alpine Native Plant Garden; and Oakoasis County Open Space Preserve. In addition, the Natural History Museum sponsors hikes throughout the county. For the warmer inland locations, you might want to hike early in the morning or later in the evening.

If you decide to plant natives, you have a very pleasant job to do this summer: rest up for fall planting. Since you really shouldn't install any new greenery on hot dry days, sit in a nice cool spot and decide just what species you want to plant later on in the year, after there have been several good rains. In mid-fall, there will be plant sales sponsored by the San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (619- 685-7321) and the Lake Hodges Native Plant Club (760-746-9157).

In addition, you might visit the Las Pilitas Native Plant Nursery (760-749-5930) in Escondido to get ideas and advice about planting natives. Valerie Phillips, the manager at Las Pilitas, says that **if you know the bloom times of native plants, you can have a garden that never looks dead**. Also, you might mix in some evergreen natives with the wild bloomers. Most plants don't bloom constantly; they need to rest once in awhile.

And in this long hot summer climate of ours, so do you. □

Text copyright by Pat Pawlowski, who is a writer/lecturer and the wildlife garden designer for Animated Gardens.

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KATE SESSIONS BOOK

The complete collection of writings by Kate Sessions in *California Garden* magazine from 1909 until 1939 is now available at the San Diego Floral Association office in Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. The book contains a plant index and many changes in plant names, particularly scientific, have been noted.

Often known as the "Mother of Balboa Park," for over fifty years she devoted her life to helping people grow beautiful plants in San Diego. She tells how, in this book that is for sale in the San Diego Floral Office for $18.00 (tax included) — $15.00 (tax included, for members). If you wish a copy mailed to you, use the coupon below and enclose $3.00 for handling and mailing.

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ROLAND HOYT BOOK REPRINT

ORNAMENTAL PLANTS FOR SUBTROPICAL REGIONS by Roland Hoyt has been reprinted by his sons. The book has been available only at rare book stores until now. (Going Rate $65.00) Bill and Mike have donated the books to San Diego Floral Association. The books will sell for $14.50 (tax included). $10 of each book sale will be added to the scholarship fund established in the name of Ethel and Roland Hoyt. The books are available at the San Diego Floral office in Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. They can be mailed.

If you are a newcomer to San Diego you probably do not know about Roland Hoyt. He was one of our earliest landscape architects and is responsible for the landscaping of Mission Bay, the Community Concourse, and many noteworthy gardens around the city. At the time this book was written, there was no guide for Southern California that listed plants by their needs and requirements. It is still the most reliable guide available. The later half of the book is a writen description and sketch of each plant in alphabetical order. In recent years many scientific names have been changed but there is an updated nomeclature list at the end of the book. The original 1940 book was published as a pocketbook, but this is enlarged—it is a handsome hardback book 7" x 10½". The price of the book (tax included) is $14.50. Handling and postage is an additional $3.00.

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